

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 18, 2014

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 29, 2014

SENATE BILL

No. 1099

Introduced by Senator Steinberg

(Coauthors: Senators Anderson, Beall, Cannella, and Correa)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Bonta, Chávez, Chesbro, Frazier, Lowenthal, Medina, Nestande, Quirk, Weber, and Yamada)

February 19, 2014

An act to amend Sections 358.1, 361.2, 362.1, 366, 366.1, 366.3, 388, 706.6, 778, and 16002 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to ~~dependent~~ children.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1099, as amended, Steinberg. Dependent children: *wards of the juvenile court*: sibling visitation.

(1) Under existing law, a child may come within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court and become a dependent child of the court in certain cases, including when the child is abused, a parent or guardian fails to adequately supervise or protect the child, as specified, or a parent or guardian fails to provide the child with adequate food, clothing, shelter, or medical treatment. *Existing law generally subjects any person under 18 years of age who commits a crime to the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, which may adjudge that person to be a ward of the court.*

Existing law requires the responsible local agency to make a diligent effort in all out-of-home placements of dependent children to place siblings together in the same placement, and to develop and maintain sibling relationships.

This bill would extend that requirement to all out-of-home placements of wards in foster care. By imposing additional duties on local agencies, the bill would create a state-mandated local program.

~~Existing~~

(2) Existing law permits any person to petition the juvenile court to assert a sibling relationship with a dependent child or a child who is the subject of a petition for adjudication as a dependent child and make certain requests, including a request for visitation with the dependent child.

This bill would also authorize a dependent child or a nonminor dependent to request visitation with a sibling who is in the physical custody of a common legal or biological parent. The bill would authorize a court to grant those requests for visitation, unless it is determined by the court that visitation is contrary to the safety and well-being of any of the siblings.

This bill would authorize any person, including a ward, a transition dependent, or a nonminor dependent of the juvenile court, to petition the court to assert a relationship as a sibling and make certain requests, including a request for visitation, with a sibling who is, or is the subject of an adjudication as, a ward of the juvenile court, as specified. The bill would authorize a ward, transition dependent, or nonminor dependent to assert a relationship as a sibling and request visitation with a nondependent sibling who is in the physical custody of a common legal or biological parent. The bill would authorize a court to grant those requests for visitation, unless it is determined by the court that visitation is contrary to the safety and well-being of any of the siblings.

~~(2)~~

(3) Existing law requires, in order to maintain ties between the parent or guardian and any siblings and a child placed in foster care, an order placing a child in foster care and ordering reunification services to provide for visitation between the parent or guardian and the child and for visitation between any siblings and the child.

This bill would additionally require an order placing a child in foster care and ordering reunification services to provide for review of the reasons for any suspension of sibling visitation at each periodic review hearing and for a requirement that, in order for the suspension to continue, a court make a renewed finding that sibling interaction is contrary to the safety or well-being of either child.

~~(3)~~

(4) Existing law requires that the status of a dependent child in foster care be reviewed periodically, but no less frequently than once every 6 months. Existing law requires a court to determine specified information at that hearing, including whether the child has any siblings under the court's jurisdiction, and, if any siblings exist and are not placed with the child, the frequency and nature of the visits between siblings.

Existing law requires a social worker or child advocate appointed by the court, when preparing certain social studies or evaluations, to include specified information, including whether the child has any siblings under the court's jurisdiction, and, if any siblings exist and are not placed with the child, the frequency and nature of the visits between siblings.

This bill would additionally require, if any siblings exist and are not placed with the child, the court to determine, and require a social worker or child advocate appointed by the court to include in those social studies or evaluations, whether any visits between the siblings are supervised or unsupervised, and if visits are supervised, a discussion of the reasons why the visits are supervised, and what needs to be accomplished in order for the visits to be unsupervised, a description of the location and length of any visits, and any plan to increase visitation between siblings. By requiring county social workers to include additional information in certain social studies or evaluations, ~~this~~ *the* bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(5) *Existing law requires, after a minor is adjudged to be a ward of the court, the court to hear evidence on the question of the proper disposition to be made of the minor. Existing law requires the probation officer to prepare a case plan if placement in foster care is recommended by the probation officer, or if the minor is already in foster care placement or pending placement. Existing law requires the probation officer to include, among other things, scheduled visits between the minor and his or her family and an explanation if no visits are made.*

This bill would additionally require the probation officer to include specified information relating to the child's siblings. By imposing additional duties on probation officers, the bill would create a state-mandated local program.

(4)

(6) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 358.1 of the Welfare and Institutions
2 Code is amended to read:
3 358.1. Each social study or evaluation made by a social worker
4 or child advocate appointed by the court, required to be received
5 in evidence pursuant to Section 358, shall include, but not be
6 limited to, a factual discussion of each of the following subjects:
7 (a) Whether the county welfare department or social worker has
8 considered child protective services, as defined in Chapter 5
9 (commencing with Section 16500) of Part 4 of Division 9, as a
10 possible solution to the problems at hand, and has offered these
11 services to qualified parents if appropriate under the circumstances.
12 (b) What plan, if any, for return of the child to his or her parents
13 and for achieving legal permanence for the child if efforts to reunify
14 fail, is recommended to the court by the county welfare department
15 or probation officer.
16 (c) Whether the best interests of the child will be served by
17 granting reasonable visitation rights with the child to his or her
18 grandparents, in order to maintain and strengthen the child's family
19 relationships.
20 (d) (1) Whether the child has siblings under the court's
21 jurisdiction, and, if any siblings exist, all of the following:
22 (A) The nature of the relationship between the child and his or
23 her siblings.
24 (B) The appropriateness of developing or maintaining the sibling
25 relationships pursuant to Section 16002.
26 (C) If the siblings are not placed together in the same home,
27 why the siblings are not placed together and what efforts are being
28 made to place the siblings together, or why those efforts are not
29 appropriate.
30 (D) If the siblings are not placed together, all of the following:
31 (i) The frequency and nature of the visits between the siblings.

1 (ii) If there are visits between the siblings, whether the visits
2 are supervised or unsupervised. If the visits are supervised, a
3 discussion of the reasons why the visits are supervised, and what
4 needs to be accomplished in order for the visits to be unsupervised.

5 (iii) If there are visits between the siblings, a description of the
6 location and length of the visits.

7 (iv) Any plan to increase visitation between the siblings.

8 (E) The impact of the sibling relationships on the child's
9 placement and planning for legal permanence.

10 (2) The factual discussion shall include a discussion of indicators
11 of the nature of the child's sibling relationships, including, but not
12 limited to, whether the siblings were raised together in the same
13 home, whether the siblings have shared significant common
14 experiences or have existing close and strong bonds, whether either
15 sibling expresses a desire to visit or live with his or her sibling, as
16 applicable, and whether ongoing contact is in the child's best
17 emotional interest.

18 (e) If the parent or guardian is unwilling or unable to participate
19 in making an educational decision for his or her child, or if other
20 circumstances exist that compromise the ability of the parent or
21 guardian to make educational decisions for the child, the county
22 welfare department or social worker shall consider whether the
23 right of the parent or guardian to make educational decisions for
24 the child should be limited. If the study or evaluation makes that
25 recommendation, it shall identify whether there is a responsible
26 adult available to make educational decisions for the child pursuant
27 to Section 361.

28 (f) Whether the child appears to be a person who is eligible to
29 be considered for further court action to free the child from parental
30 custody and control.

31 (g) Whether the parent has been advised of his or her option to
32 participate in adoption planning, including the option to enter into
33 a postadoption contact agreement as described in Section 8616.5
34 of the Family Code, and to voluntarily relinquish the child for
35 adoption if an adoption agency is willing to accept the
36 relinquishment.

37 (h) The appropriateness of any relative placement pursuant to
38 Section 361.3. However, this consideration may not be cause for
39 continuance of the dispositional hearing.

1 (i) Whether the caregiver desires, and is willing, to provide legal
2 permanency for the child if reunification is unsuccessful.

3 (j) For an Indian child, in consultation with the Indian child's
4 tribe, whether tribal customary adoption is an appropriate
5 permanent plan for the child if reunification is unsuccessful.

6 (k) On and after the date that the director executes a declaration
7 pursuant to Section 11217, whether the child has been placed in
8 an approved relative's home under a voluntary placement
9 agreement for a period not to exceed 180 days, the parent or
10 guardian is not interested in additional family maintenance or
11 family reunification services, and the relative desires and is willing
12 to be appointed the child's legal guardian.

13 SEC. 2. Section 361.2 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is
14 amended to read:

15 361.2. (a) When a court orders removal of a child pursuant to
16 Section 361, the court shall first determine whether there is a parent
17 of the child, with whom the child was not residing at the time that
18 the events or conditions arose that brought the child within the
19 provisions of Section 300, who desires to assume custody of the
20 child. If that parent requests custody, the court shall place the child
21 with the parent unless it finds that placement with that parent would
22 be detrimental to the safety, protection, or physical or emotional
23 well-being of the child.

24 (b) If the court places the child with that parent it may do any
25 of the following:

26 (1) Order that the parent become legal and physical custodian
27 of the child. The court may also provide reasonable visitation by
28 the noncustodial parent. The court shall then terminate its
29 jurisdiction over the child. The custody order shall continue unless
30 modified by a subsequent order of the superior court. The order
31 of the juvenile court shall be filed in any domestic relation
32 proceeding between the parents.

33 (2) Order that the parent assume custody subject to the
34 jurisdiction of the juvenile court and require that a home visit be
35 conducted within three months. In determining whether to take
36 the action described in this paragraph, the court shall consider any
37 concerns that have been raised by the child's current caregiver
38 regarding the parent. After the social worker conducts the home
39 visit and files his or her report with the court, the court may then
40 take the action described in paragraph (1), (3), or this paragraph.

1 However, nothing in this paragraph shall be interpreted to imply
2 that the court is required to take the action described in this
3 paragraph as a prerequisite to the court taking the action described
4 in either paragraph (1) or (3).

5 (3) Order that the parent assume custody subject to the
6 supervision of the juvenile court. In that case the court may order
7 that reunification services be provided to the parent or guardian
8 from whom the child is being removed, or the court may order that
9 services be provided solely to the parent who is assuming physical
10 custody in order to allow that parent to retain later custody without
11 court supervision, or that services be provided to both parents, in
12 which case the court shall determine, at review hearings held
13 pursuant to Section 366, which parent, if either, shall have custody
14 of the child.

15 (c) The court shall make a finding either in writing or on the
16 record of the basis for its determination under subdivisions (a) and
17 (b).

18 (d) Part 6 (commencing with Section 7950) of Division 12 of
19 the Family Code shall apply to the placement of a child pursuant
20 to paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (e).

21 (e) When the court orders removal pursuant to Section 361, the
22 court shall order the care, custody, control, and conduct of the
23 child to be under the supervision of the social worker who may
24 place the child in any of the following:

25 (1) The home of a noncustodial parent as described in
26 subdivision (a), regardless of the parent's immigration status.

27 (2) The approved home of a relative, regardless of the relative's
28 immigration status.

29 (3) The approved home of a nonrelative extended family
30 member as defined in Section 362.7.

31 (4) A foster home in which the child has been placed before an
32 interruption in foster care, if that placement is in the best interest
33 of the child and space is available.

34 (5) A suitable licensed community care facility, except a
35 runaway and homeless youth shelter licensed by the State
36 Department of Social Services pursuant to Section 1502.35 of the
37 Health and Safety Code.

38 (6) With a foster family agency to be placed in a suitable
39 licensed foster family home or certified family home which has
40 been certified by the agency as meeting licensing standards.

1 (7) A home or facility in accordance with the federal Indian
2 Child Welfare Act (25 U.S.C. Sec. 1901 et seq.).

3 (8) A child under six years of age may be placed in a community
4 care facility licensed as a group home for children, or a temporary
5 shelter care facility as defined in Section 1530.8 of the Health and
6 Safety Code, only under any of the following circumstances:

7 (A) (i) When a case plan indicates that placement is for purposes
8 of providing short term, specialized, and intensive treatment to the
9 child, the case plan specifies the need for, nature of, and anticipated
10 duration of this treatment, pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision
11 (c) of Section 16501.1, the facility meets the applicable regulations
12 adopted under Section 1530.8 of the Health and Safety Code and
13 standards developed pursuant to Section 11467.1 of this code, and
14 the deputy director or director of the county child welfare
15 department or an assistant chief probation officer or chief probation
16 officer of the county probation department has approved the case
17 plan.

18 (ii) The short term, specialized, and intensive treatment period
19 shall not exceed 120 days, unless the county has made progress
20 toward or is actively working toward implementing the case plan
21 that identifies the services or supports necessary to transition the
22 child to a family setting, circumstances beyond the county's control
23 have prevented the county from obtaining those services or
24 supports within the timeline documented in the case plan, and the
25 need for additional time pursuant to the case plan is documented
26 by the caseworker and approved by a deputy director or director
27 of the county child welfare department or an assistant chief
28 probation officer or chief probation officer of the county probation
29 department.

30 (iii) To the extent that placements pursuant to this paragraph
31 are extended beyond an initial 120 days, the requirements of
32 clauses (i) and (ii) shall apply to each extension. In addition, the
33 deputy director or director of the county child welfare department
34 or an assistant chief probation officer or chief probation officer of
35 the county probation department shall approve the continued
36 placement no less frequently than every 60 days.

37 (B) When a case plan indicates that placement is for purposes
38 of providing family reunification services. In addition, the facility
39 offers family reunification services that meet the needs of the
40 individual child and his or her family, permits parents to have

1 reasonable access to their children 24 hours a day, encourages
2 extensive parental involvement in meeting the daily needs of their
3 children, and employs staff trained to provide family reunification
4 services. In addition, one of the following conditions exists:

5 (i) The child's parent is also a ward of the court and resides in
6 the facility.

7 (ii) The child's parent is participating in a treatment program
8 affiliated with the facility and the child's placement in the facility
9 facilitates the coordination and provision of reunification services.

10 (iii) Placement in the facility is the only alternative that permits
11 the parent to have daily 24-hour access to the child in accordance
12 with the case plan, to participate fully in meeting all of the daily
13 needs of the child, including feeding and personal hygiene, and to
14 have access to necessary reunification services.

15 (9) (A) A child who is 6 to 12 years of age, inclusive, may be
16 placed in a community care facility licensed as a group home for
17 children only when a case plan indicates that placement is for
18 purposes of providing short term, specialized, and intensive
19 treatment for the child, the case plan specifies the need for, nature
20 of, and anticipated duration of this treatment, pursuant to paragraph
21 (2) of subdivision (c) of Section 16501.1, and is approved by the
22 deputy director or director of the county child welfare department
23 or an assistant chief probation officer or chief probation officer of
24 the county probation department.

25 (B) The short term, specialized, and intensive treatment period
26 shall not exceed six months, unless the county has made progress
27 or is actively working toward implementing the case plan that
28 identifies the services or supports necessary to transition the child
29 to a family setting, circumstances beyond the county's control
30 have prevented the county from obtaining those services or
31 supports within the timeline documented in the case plan, and the
32 need for additional time pursuant to the case plan is documented
33 by the caseworker and approved by a deputy director or director
34 of the county child welfare department or an assistant chief
35 probation officer or chief probation officer of the county probation
36 department.

37 (C) To the extent that placements pursuant to this paragraph are
38 extended beyond an initial six months, the requirements of
39 subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall apply to each extension. In
40 addition, the deputy director or director of the county child welfare

1 department or an assistant chief probation officer or chief probation
2 officer of the county probation department shall approve the
3 continued placement no less frequently than every 60 days.

4 (10) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to allow a
5 social worker to place any dependent child outside the United
6 States, except as specified in subdivision (f).

7 (f) (1) A child under the supervision of a social worker pursuant
8 to subdivision (e) shall not be placed outside the United States
9 prior to a judicial finding that the placement is in the best interest
10 of the child, except as required by federal law or treaty.

11 (2) The party or agency requesting placement of the child outside
12 the United States shall carry the burden of proof and must show,
13 by clear and convincing evidence, that placement outside the
14 United States is in the best interest of the child.

15 (3) In determining the best interest of the child, the court shall
16 consider, but not be limited to, the following factors:

17 (A) Placement with a relative.

18 (B) Placement of siblings in the same home.

19 (C) Amount and nature of any contact between the child and
20 the potential guardian or caretaker.

21 (D) Physical and medical needs of the dependent child.

22 (E) Psychological and emotional needs of the dependent child.

23 (F) Social, cultural, and educational needs of the dependent
24 child.

25 (G) Specific desires of any dependent child who is 12 years of
26 age or older.

27 (4) If the court finds that a placement outside the United States
28 is, by clear and convincing evidence, in the best interest of the
29 child, the court may issue an order authorizing the social worker
30 to make a placement outside the United States. A child subject to
31 this subdivision shall not leave the United States prior to the
32 issuance of the order described in this paragraph.

33 (5) For purposes of this subdivision, “outside the United States”
34 shall not include the lands of any federally recognized American
35 Indian tribe or Alaskan Natives.

36 (6) This subdivision shall not apply to the placement of a
37 dependent child with a parent pursuant to subdivision (a).

38 (g) (1) If the child is taken from the physical custody of the
39 child’s parent or guardian and unless the child is placed with
40 relatives, the child shall be placed in foster care in the county of

1 residence of the child's parent or guardian in order to facilitate
2 reunification of the family.

3 (2) In the event that there are no appropriate placements
4 available in the parent's or guardian's county of residence, a
5 placement may be made in an appropriate place in another county,
6 preferably a county located adjacent to the parent's or guardian's
7 community of residence.

8 (3) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted as requiring
9 multiple disruptions of the child's placement corresponding to
10 frequent changes of residence by the parent or guardian. In
11 determining whether the child should be moved, the social worker
12 shall take into consideration the potential harmful effects of
13 disrupting the placement of the child and the parent's or guardian's
14 reason for the move.

15 (4) When it has been determined that it is necessary for a child
16 to be placed in a county other than the child's parent's or guardian's
17 county of residence, the specific reason the out-of-county
18 placement is necessary shall be documented in the child's case
19 plan. If the reason the out-of-county placement is necessary is the
20 lack of resources in the sending county to meet the specific needs
21 of the child, those specific resource needs shall be documented in
22 the case plan.

23 (5) When it has been determined that a child is to be placed out
24 of county either in a group home or with a foster family agency
25 for subsequent placement in a certified foster family home, and
26 the sending county is to maintain responsibility for supervision
27 and visitation of the child, the sending county shall develop a plan
28 of supervision and visitation that specifies the supervision and
29 visitation activities to be performed and specifies that the sending
30 county is responsible for performing those activities. In addition
31 to the plan of supervision and visitation, the sending county shall
32 document information regarding any known or suspected dangerous
33 behavior of the child that indicates the child may pose a safety
34 concern in the receiving county. Upon implementation of the Child
35 Welfare Services Case Management System, the plan of
36 supervision and visitation, as well as information regarding any
37 known or suspected dangerous behavior of the child, shall be made
38 available to the receiving county upon placement of the child in
39 the receiving county. If placement occurs on a weekend or holiday,

1 the information shall be made available to the receiving county on
2 or before the end of the next business day.

3 (6) When it has been determined that a child is to be placed out
4 of county and the sending county plans that the receiving county
5 shall be responsible for the supervision and visitation of the child,
6 the sending county shall develop a formal agreement between the
7 sending and receiving counties. The formal agreement shall specify
8 the supervision and visitation to be provided the child, and shall
9 specify that the receiving county is responsible for providing the
10 supervision and visitation. The formal agreement shall be approved
11 and signed by the sending and receiving counties prior to placement
12 of the child in the receiving county. In addition, upon completion
13 of the case plan, the sending county shall provide a copy of the
14 completed case plan to the receiving county. The case plan shall
15 include information regarding any known or suspected dangerous
16 behavior of the child that indicates the child may pose a safety
17 concern to the receiving county.

18 (h) Whenever the social worker must change the placement of
19 the child and is unable to find a suitable placement within the
20 county and must place the child outside the county, the placement
21 shall not be made until he or she has served written notice on the
22 parent or guardian at least 14 days prior to the placement, unless
23 the child's health or well-being is endangered by delaying the
24 action or would be endangered if prior notice were given. The
25 notice shall state the reasons which require placement outside the
26 county. The parent or guardian may object to the placement not
27 later than seven days after receipt of the notice and, upon objection,
28 the court shall hold a hearing not later than five days after the
29 objection and prior to the placement. The court shall order
30 out-of-county placement if it finds that the child's particular needs
31 require placement outside the county.

32 (i) Where the court has ordered removal of the child from the
33 physical custody of his or her parents pursuant to Section 361, the
34 court shall consider whether the family ties and best interest of the
35 child will be served by granting visitation rights to the child's
36 grandparents. The court shall clearly specify those rights to the
37 social worker.

38 (j) Where the court has ordered removal of the child from the
39 physical custody of his or her parents pursuant to Section 361, the
40 court shall consider whether there are any siblings under the court's

1 jurisdiction, or any nondependent siblings in the *physical* custody
2 of a parent subject to the court's jurisdiction, the nature of the
3 relationship between the child and his or her siblings, the
4 appropriateness of developing or maintaining the sibling
5 relationships pursuant to Section 16002, and the impact of the
6 sibling relationships on the child's placement and planning for
7 legal permanence.

8 (k) (1) When an agency has placed a child with a relative
9 caregiver, a nonrelative extended family member, a licensed foster
10 family home, or a group home, the agency shall ensure placement
11 of the child in a home that, to the fullest extent possible, best meets
12 the day-to-day needs of the child. A home that best meets the
13 day-to-day needs of the child shall satisfy all of the following
14 criteria:

15 (A) The child's caregiver is able to meet the day-to-day health,
16 safety, and well-being needs of the child.

17 (B) The child's caregiver is permitted to maintain the least
18 restrictive and most family-like environment that serves the
19 day-to-day needs of the child.

20 (C) The child is permitted to engage in reasonable,
21 age-appropriate day-to-day activities that promote the most
22 family-like environment for the foster child.

23 (2) The foster child's caregiver shall use a reasonable and
24 prudent parent standard, as defined in paragraph (2) of subdivision
25 (a) of Section 362.04, to determine day-to-day activities that are
26 age appropriate to meet the needs of the child. Nothing in this
27 section shall be construed to permit a child's caregiver to permit
28 the child to engage in day-to-day activities that carry an
29 unreasonable risk of harm, or subject the child to abuse or neglect.

30 SEC. 3. Section 362.1 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is
31 amended to read:

32 362.1. (a) In order to maintain ties between the parent or
33 guardian and any siblings and the child, and to provide information
34 relevant to deciding if, and when, to return a child to the custody
35 of his or her parent or guardian, or to encourage or suspend sibling
36 interaction, any order placing a child in foster care, and ordering
37 reunification services, shall provide as follows:

38 (1) (A) Subject to subparagraph (B), for visitation between the
39 parent or guardian and the child. Visitation shall be as frequent as
40 possible, consistent with the well-being of the child.

(B) No visitation order shall jeopardize the safety of the child. To protect the safety of the child, the court may keep the child's address confidential. If the parent of the child has been convicted of murder in the first degree, as defined in Section 189 of the Penal Code, and the victim of the murder was the other parent of the child, the court shall order visitation between the child and the parent only if that order would be consistent with Section 3030 of the Family Code.

(2) Pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 16002, for visitation between the child and any siblings, unless the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that sibling interaction is contrary to the safety or well-being of either child.

(3) Pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 16002, for review of the reasons for any suspension of sibling interaction at each periodic review hearing pursuant to Section 366, and for a requirement that, in order for a suspension to continue, the court shall make a renewed finding that sibling interaction is contrary to the safety or well-being of either child.

(4) If the child is a teen parent who has custody of his or her child and that child is not a dependent of the court pursuant to this chapter, for visitation among the teen parent, the child's noncustodial parent, and appropriate family members, unless the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that visitation would be detrimental to the teen parent.

(b) When reunification services are not ordered pursuant to Section 361.5, the child's plan for legal permanency shall include consideration of the existence of and the relationship with any sibling pursuant to Section 16002, including their impact on placement and visitation.

(c) As used in this section, "sibling" means a child related to another person by blood, adoption, or affinity through a common legal or biological parent.

SEC. 4. Section 366 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

366. (a) (1) The status of every dependent child in foster care shall be reviewed periodically as determined by the court but no less frequently than once every six months, as calculated from the date of the original dispositional hearing, until the hearing described in Section 366.26 is completed. The court shall consider the safety of the child and shall determine all of the following:

1 (A) The continuing necessity for and appropriateness of the
2 placement.

3 (B) The extent of the agency's compliance with the case plan
4 in making reasonable efforts, or, in the case of an Indian child,
5 active efforts as described in Section 361.7, to return the child to
6 a safe home and to complete any steps necessary to finalize the
7 permanent placement of the child, including efforts to maintain
8 relationships between a child who is 10 years of age or older and
9 who has been in an out-of-home placement for six months or
10 longer, and individuals other than the child's siblings who are
11 important to the child, consistent with the child's best interests.

12 (C) Whether there should be any limitation on the right of the
13 parent or guardian to make educational decisions or developmental
14 services decisions for the child. That limitation shall be specifically
15 addressed in the court order and may not exceed those necessary
16 to protect the child. Whenever the court specifically limits the right
17 of the parent or guardian to make educational decisions or
18 developmental services decisions for the child, the court shall at
19 the same time appoint a responsible adult to make educational
20 decisions or developmental services decisions for the child pursuant
21 to Section 361.

22 (D) (i) Whether the child has other siblings under the court's
23 jurisdiction, and, if any siblings exist, all of the following:

24 (I) The nature of the relationship between the child and his or
25 her siblings.

26 (II) The appropriateness of developing or maintaining the sibling
27 relationships pursuant to Section 16002.

28 (III) If the siblings are not placed together in the same home,
29 why the siblings are not placed together and what efforts are being
30 made to place the siblings together, or why those efforts are not
31 appropriate.

32 (IV) If the siblings are not placed together, all of the following:

33 (ia) The frequency and nature of the visits between the siblings.

34 (ib) If there are visits between the siblings, whether the visits
35 are supervised or unsupervised. If the visits are supervised, a
36 discussion of the reasons why the visits are supervised, and what
37 needs to be accomplished in order for the visits to be unsupervised.

38 (ic) If there are visits between the siblings, a description of the
39 location and length of the visits.

40 (id) Any plan to increase visitation between the siblings.

1 (V) The impact of the sibling relationships on the child's
2 placement and planning for legal permanence.

3 (VI) The continuing need to suspend sibling interaction, if
4 applicable, pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 16002.

5 (ii) The factors the court may consider in making a determination
6 regarding the nature of the child's sibling relationships may
7 include, but are not limited to, whether the siblings were raised
8 together in the same home, whether the siblings have shared
9 significant common experiences or have existing close and strong
10 bonds, whether either sibling expresses a desire to visit or live with
11 his or her sibling, as applicable, and whether ongoing contact is
12 in the child's best emotional interests.

13 (E) The extent of progress that has been made toward alleviating
14 or mitigating the causes necessitating placement in foster care.

15 (F) If the review hearing is the last review hearing to be held
16 before the child attains 18 years of age, the court shall conduct the
17 hearing pursuant to Section 366.31 or 366.32.

18 (2) The court shall project a likely date by which the child may
19 be returned to and safely maintained in the home or placed for
20 adoption, legal guardianship, or in another planned permanent
21 living arrangement.

22 (b) Subsequent to the hearing, periodic reviews of each child
23 in foster care shall be conducted pursuant to the requirements of
24 Sections 366.3 and 16503.

25 (c) If the child has been placed out of state, each review
26 described in subdivision (a) and any reviews conducted pursuant
27 to Sections 366.3 and 16503 shall also address whether the
28 out-of-state placement continues to be the most appropriate
29 placement selection and in the best interests of the child.

30 (d) (1) A review described in subdivision (a) and any reviews
31 conducted pursuant to Sections 366.3 and 16503 shall not result
32 in a placement of a child outside the United States prior to a judicial
33 finding that the placement is in the best interest of the child, except
34 as required by federal law or treaty.

35 (2) The party or agency requesting placement of the child outside
36 the United States shall carry the burden of proof and must show,
37 by clear and convincing evidence, that a placement outside the
38 United States is in the best interest of the child.

39 (3) In determining the best interest of the child, the court shall
40 consider, but not be limited to, the following factors:

- 1 (A) Placement with a relative.
- 2 (B) Placement of siblings in the same home.
- 3 (C) Amount and nature of any contact between the child and
- 4 the potential guardian or caretaker.
- 5 (D) Physical and medical needs of the dependent child.
- 6 (E) Psychological and emotional needs of the dependent child.
- 7 (F) Social, cultural, and educational needs of the dependent
- 8 child.
- 9 (G) Specific desires of any dependent child who is 12 years of
- 10 age or older.

11 (4) If the court finds that a placement outside the United States
12 is, by clear and convincing evidence, in the best interest of the
13 child, the court may issue an order authorizing the social worker
14 or placing agency to make a placement outside the United States.
15 A child subject to this subdivision shall not leave the United States
16 prior to the issuance of the order described in this paragraph.

17 (5) For purposes of this subdivision, “outside the United States”
18 shall not include the lands of any federally recognized American
19 Indian tribe or Alaskan Natives.

20 (6) This section shall not apply to the placement of a dependent
21 child with a parent.

22 (e) A child may not be placed in an out-of-state group home,
23 or remain in an out-of-state group home, unless the group home
24 is in compliance with Section 7911.1 of the Family Code.

25 (f) The implementation and operation of the amendments to
26 subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) enacted at
27 the 2005–06 Regular Session shall be subject to appropriation
28 through the budget process and by phase, as provided in Section
29 366.35.

30 (g) The status review of every nonminor dependent, as defined
31 in subdivision (v) of Section 11400, shall be conducted pursuant
32 to the requirements of Sections 366.3, 366.31, or 366.32, and 16503
33 until dependency jurisdiction is terminated pursuant to Section
34 391.

35 SEC. 5. Section 366.1 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is
36 amended to read:

37 366.1. Each supplemental report required to be filed pursuant
38 to Section 366 shall include, but not be limited to, a factual
39 discussion of each of the following subjects:

1 (a) Whether the county welfare department social worker has
2 considered child protective services, as defined in Chapter 5
3 (commencing with Section 16500) of Part 4 of Division 9, as a
4 possible solution to the problems at hand, and has offered those
5 services to qualified parents, if appropriate under the circumstances.

6 (b) What plan, if any, for the return and maintenance of the
7 child in a safe home is recommended to the court by the county
8 welfare department social worker.

9 (c) Whether the subject child appears to be a person who is
10 eligible to be considered for further court action to free the child
11 from parental custody and control.

12 (d) What actions, if any, have been taken by the parent to correct
13 the problems that caused the child to be made a dependent child
14 of the court.

15 (e) If the parent or guardian is unwilling or unable to participate
16 in making an educational decision for his or her child, or if other
17 circumstances exist that compromise the ability of the parent or
18 guardian to make educational decisions for the child, the county
19 welfare department or social worker shall consider whether the
20 right of the parent or guardian to make educational decisions for
21 the child should be limited. If the supplemental report makes that
22 recommendation, the report shall identify whether there is a
23 responsible adult available to make educational decisions for the
24 child pursuant to Section 361.

25 (f) (1) Whether the child has any siblings under the court's
26 jurisdiction, and, if any siblings exist, all of the following:

27 (A) The nature of the relationship between the child and his or
28 her siblings.

29 (B) The appropriateness of developing or maintaining the sibling
30 relationships pursuant to Section 16002.

31 (C) If the siblings are not placed together in the same home,
32 why the siblings are not placed together and what efforts are being
33 made to place the siblings together, or why those efforts are not
34 appropriate.

35 (D) If the siblings are not placed together, all of the following:

36 (i) The frequency and nature of the visits between the siblings.

37 (ii) If there are visits between the siblings, whether the visits
38 are supervised or unsupervised. If the visits are supervised, a
39 discussion of the reasons why the visits are supervised, and what
40 needs to be accomplished in order for the visits to be unsupervised.

1 (iii) If there are visits between the siblings, a description of the
2 location and length of the visits.

3 (iv) Any plan to increase visitation between the siblings.

4 (E) The impact of the sibling relationships on the child's
5 placement and planning for legal permanence.

6 (2) The factual discussion shall include a discussion of indicators
7 of the nature of the child's sibling relationships, including, but not
8 limited to, whether the siblings were raised together in the same
9 home, whether the siblings have shared significant common
10 experiences or have existing close and strong bonds, whether either
11 sibling expresses a desire to visit or live with his or her sibling, as
12 applicable, and whether ongoing contact is in the child's best
13 emotional interests.

14 (g) Whether a child who is 10 years of age or older and who
15 has been in an out-of-home placement for six months or longer
16 has relationships with individuals other than the child's siblings
17 that are important to the child, consistent with the child's best
18 interests, and actions taken to maintain those relationships. The
19 social worker shall ask every child who is 10 years of age or older
20 and who has been in an out-of-home placement for six months or
21 longer to identify any individuals other than the child's siblings
22 who are important to the child, consistent with the child's best
23 interest. The social worker may ask any other child to provide that
24 information, as appropriate.

25 (h) The implementation and operation of the amendments to
26 subdivision (g) enacted at the 2005–06 Regular Session shall be
27 subject to appropriation through the budget process and by phase,
28 as provided in Section 366.35.

29 SEC. 6. Section 366.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is
30 amended to read:

31 366.3. (a) If a juvenile court orders a permanent plan of
32 adoption, tribal customary adoption, adoption of a nonminor
33 dependent pursuant to subdivision (f) of Section 366.31, or legal
34 guardianship pursuant to Section 360 or 366.26, the court shall
35 retain jurisdiction over the child or nonminor dependent until the
36 child or nonminor dependent is adopted or the legal guardianship
37 is established, except as provided for in Section 366.29 or, on and
38 after January 1, 2012, Section 366.32. The status of the child or
39 nonminor dependent shall be reviewed every six months to ensure
40 that the adoption or legal guardianship is completed as

1 expeditiously as possible. When the adoption of the child or
2 nonminor dependent has been granted, or in the case of a tribal
3 customary adoption, when the tribal customary adoption order has
4 been afforded full faith and credit and the petition for adoption
5 has been granted, the court shall terminate its jurisdiction over the
6 child or nonminor dependent. Following establishment of a legal
7 guardianship, the court may continue jurisdiction over the child
8 as a dependent child of the juvenile court or may terminate its
9 dependency jurisdiction and retain jurisdiction over the child as a
10 ward of the legal guardianship, as authorized by Section 366.4. If,
11 however, a relative of the child is appointed the legal guardian of
12 the child and the child has been placed with the relative for at least
13 six months, the court shall, except if the relative guardian objects,
14 or upon a finding of exceptional circumstances, terminate its
15 dependency jurisdiction and retain jurisdiction over the child as a
16 ward of the guardianship, as authorized by Section 366.4.
17 Following a termination of parental rights, the parent or parents
18 shall not be a party to, or receive notice of, any subsequent
19 proceedings regarding the child.

20 (b) If the court has dismissed dependency jurisdiction following
21 the establishment of a legal guardianship, or no dependency
22 jurisdiction attached because of the granting of a legal guardianship
23 pursuant to Section 360, and the legal guardianship is subsequently
24 revoked or otherwise terminated, the county department of social
25 services or welfare department shall notify the juvenile court of
26 this fact. The court may vacate its previous order dismissing
27 dependency jurisdiction over the child.

28 Notwithstanding Section 1601 of the Probate Code, the
29 proceedings to terminate a legal guardianship that has been granted
30 pursuant to Section 360 or 366.26 shall be held either in the
31 juvenile court that retains jurisdiction over the guardianship as
32 authorized by Section 366.4 or the juvenile court in the county
33 where the guardian and child currently reside, based on the best
34 interests of the child, unless the termination is due to the
35 emancipation or adoption of the child. The juvenile court having
36 jurisdiction over the guardianship shall receive notice from the
37 court in which the petition is filed within five calendar days of the
38 filing. Prior to the hearing on a petition to terminate legal
39 guardianship pursuant to this subdivision, the court shall order the
40 county department of social services or welfare department having

1 jurisdiction or jointly with the county department where the
2 guardian and child currently reside to prepare a report, for the
3 court's consideration, that shall include an evaluation of whether
4 the child could safely remain in, or be returned to, the legal
5 guardian's home, without terminating the legal guardianship, if
6 services were provided to the child or legal guardian. If applicable,
7 the report shall also identify recommended family maintenance or
8 reunification services to maintain the legal guardianship and set
9 forth a plan for providing those services. If the petition to terminate
10 legal guardianship is granted, either juvenile court may resume
11 dependency jurisdiction over the child, and may order the county
12 department of social services or welfare department to develop a
13 new permanent plan, which shall be presented to the court within
14 60 days of the termination. If no dependency jurisdiction has
15 attached, the social worker shall make any investigation he or she
16 deems necessary to determine whether the child may be within the
17 jurisdiction of the juvenile court, as provided in Section 328.

18 Unless the parental rights of the child's parent or parents have
19 been terminated, they shall be notified that the legal guardianship
20 has been revoked or terminated and shall be entitled to participate
21 in the new permanency planning hearing. The court shall try to
22 place the child in another permanent placement. At the hearing,
23 the parents may be considered as custodians but the child shall not
24 be returned to the parent or parents unless they prove, by a
25 preponderance of the evidence, that reunification is the best
26 alternative for the child. The court may, if it is in the best interests
27 of the child, order that reunification services again be provided to
28 the parent or parents.

29 (c) If, following the establishment of a legal guardianship, the
30 county welfare department becomes aware of changed
31 circumstances that indicate adoption or, for an Indian child, tribal
32 customary adoption, may be an appropriate plan for the child, the
33 department shall so notify the court. The court may vacate its
34 previous order dismissing dependency jurisdiction over the child
35 and order that a hearing be held pursuant to Section 366.26 to
36 determine whether adoption or continued legal guardianship is the
37 most appropriate plan for the child. The hearing shall be held no
38 later than 120 days from the date of the order. If the court orders
39 that a hearing shall be held pursuant to Section 366.26, the court
40 shall direct the agency supervising the child and the county

1 adoption agency, or the State Department of Social Services if it
2 is acting as an adoption agency, to prepare an assessment under
3 subdivision (b) of Section 366.22.

4 (d) If the child or, on and after January 1, 2012, nonminor
5 dependent is in a placement other than the home of a legal guardian
6 and jurisdiction has not been dismissed, the status of the child shall
7 be reviewed at least every six months. The review of the status of
8 a child for whom the court has ordered parental rights terminated
9 and who has been ordered placed for adoption shall be conducted
10 by the court. The review of the status of a child or, on and after
11 January 1, 2012, nonminor dependent for whom the court has not
12 ordered parental rights terminated and who has not been ordered
13 placed for adoption may be conducted by the court or an
14 appropriate local agency. The court shall conduct the review under
15 the following circumstances:

16 (1) Upon the request of the child's parents or legal guardians.

17 (2) Upon the request of the child or, on and after January 1,
18 2012, nonminor dependent.

19 (3) It has been 12 months since a hearing held pursuant to
20 Section 366.26 or an order that the child remain in long-term foster
21 care pursuant to Section 366.21, 366.22, 366.25, 366.26, or
22 subdivision (h).

23 (4) It has been 12 months since a review was conducted by the
24 court.

25 The court shall determine whether or not reasonable efforts to
26 make and finalize a permanent placement for the child have been
27 made.

28 (e) Except as provided in subdivision (g), at the review held
29 every six months pursuant to subdivision (d), the reviewing body
30 shall inquire about the progress being made to provide a permanent
31 home for the child, shall consider the safety of the child, and shall
32 determine all of the following:

33 (1) The continuing necessity for, and appropriateness of, the
34 placement.

35 (2) Identification of individuals other than the child's siblings
36 who are important to a child who is 10 years of age or older and
37 has been in out-of-home placement for six months or longer, and
38 actions necessary to maintain the child's relationship with those
39 individuals, provided that those relationships are in the best interest
40 of the child. The social worker shall ask every child who is 10

1 years of age or older and who has been in out-of-home placement
2 for six months or longer to identify individuals other than the
3 child's siblings who are important to the child, and may ask any
4 other child to provide that information, as appropriate. The social
5 worker shall make efforts to identify other individuals who are
6 important to the child, consistent with the child's best interests.

7 (3) The continuing appropriateness and extent of compliance
8 with the permanent plan for the child, including efforts to maintain
9 relationships between a child who is 10 years of age or older and
10 who has been in out-of-home placement for six months or longer
11 and individuals who are important to the child and efforts to
12 identify a prospective adoptive parent or legal guardian, including,
13 but not limited to, child-specific recruitment efforts and listing on
14 an adoption exchange.

15 (4) The extent of the agency's compliance with the child welfare
16 services case plan in making reasonable efforts either to return the
17 child to the safe home of the parent or to complete whatever steps
18 are necessary to finalize the permanent placement of the child. If
19 the reviewing body determines that a second period of reunification
20 services is in the child's best interests, and that there is a significant
21 likelihood of the child's return to a safe home due to changed
22 circumstances of the parent, pursuant to subdivision (f), the specific
23 reunification services required to effect the child's return to a safe
24 home shall be described.

25 (5) Whether there should be any limitation on the right of the
26 parent or guardian to make educational decisions or developmental
27 services decisions for the child. That limitation shall be specifically
28 addressed in the court order and may not exceed what is necessary
29 to protect the child. If the court specifically limits the right of the
30 parent or guardian to make educational decisions or developmental
31 services decisions for the child, the court shall at the same time
32 appoint a responsible adult to make educational decisions or
33 developmental services decisions for the child pursuant to Section
34 361.

35 (6) The adequacy of services provided to the child. The court
36 shall consider the progress in providing the information and
37 documents to the child, as described in Section 391. The court
38 shall also consider the need for, and progress in providing, the
39 assistance and services described in Section 391.

1 (7) The extent of progress the parents or legal guardians have
2 made toward alleviating or mitigating the causes necessitating
3 placement in foster care.

4 (8) The likely date by which the child may be returned to, and
5 safely maintained in, the home, placed for adoption, legal
6 guardianship, in another planned permanent living arrangement,
7 or, for an Indian child, in consultation with the child's tribe, placed
8 for tribal customary adoption.

9 (9) Whether the child has any siblings under the court's
10 jurisdiction, and, if any siblings exist, all of the following:

11 (A) The nature of the relationship between the child and his or
12 her siblings.

13 (B) The appropriateness of developing or maintaining the sibling
14 relationships pursuant to Section 16002.

15 (C) If the siblings are not placed together in the same home,
16 why the siblings are not placed together and what efforts are being
17 made to place the siblings together, or why those efforts are not
18 appropriate.

19 (D) If the siblings are not placed together, all of the following:

20 (i) The frequency and nature of the visits between the siblings.

21 (ii) If there are visits between the siblings, whether the visits
22 are supervised or unsupervised. If the visits are supervised, a
23 discussion of the reasons why the visits are supervised, and what
24 needs to be accomplished in order for the visits to be unsupervised.

25 (iii) If there are visits between the siblings, a description of the
26 location and length of the visits.

27 (iv) Any plan to increase visitation between the siblings.

28 (E) The impact of the sibling relationships on the child's
29 placement and planning for legal permanence.

30 The factors the court may consider as indicators of the nature of
31 the child's sibling relationships include, but are not limited to,
32 whether the siblings were raised together in the same home,
33 whether the siblings have shared significant common experiences
34 or have existing close and strong bonds, whether either sibling
35 expresses a desire to visit or live with his or her sibling, as
36 applicable, and whether ongoing contact is in the child's best
37 emotional interests.

38 (10) For a child who is 16 years of age or older, and, effective
39 January 1, 2012, for a nonminor dependent, the services needed

1 to assist the child or nonminor dependent to make the transition
2 from foster care to independent living.

3 The reviewing body shall determine whether or not reasonable
4 efforts to make and finalize a permanent placement for the child
5 have been made.

6 Each licensed foster family agency shall submit reports for each
7 child in its care, custody, and control to the court concerning the
8 continuing appropriateness and extent of compliance with the
9 child's permanent plan, the extent of compliance with the case
10 plan, and the type and adequacy of services provided to the child.

11 (f) Unless their parental rights have been permanently
12 terminated, the parent or parents of the child are entitled to receive
13 notice of, and participate in, those hearings. It shall be presumed
14 that continued care is in the best interests of the child, unless the
15 parent or parents prove, by a preponderance of the evidence, that
16 further efforts at reunification are the best alternative for the child.
17 In those cases, the court may order that further reunification
18 services to return the child to a safe home environment be provided
19 to the parent or parents up to a period of six months, and family
20 maintenance services, as needed for an additional six months in
21 order to return the child to a safe home environment. On and after
22 January 1, 2012, this subdivision shall not apply to the parents of
23 a nonminor dependent.

24 (g) At the review conducted by the court and held at least every
25 six months, regarding a child for whom the court has ordered
26 parental rights terminated and who has been ordered placed for
27 adoption, or, for an Indian child for whom parental rights are not
28 being terminated and a tribal customary adoption is being
29 considered, the county welfare department shall prepare and present
30 to the court a report describing the following:

31 (1) The child's present placement.

32 (2) The child's current physical, mental, emotional, and
33 educational status.

34 (3) If the child has not been placed with a prospective adoptive
35 parent or guardian, identification of individuals, other than the
36 child's siblings, who are important to the child and actions
37 necessary to maintain the child's relationship with those
38 individuals, provided that those relationships are in the best interest
39 of the child. The agency shall ask every child who is 10 years of
40 age or older to identify any individuals who are important to him

1 or her, consistent with the child's best interest, and may ask any
2 child who is younger than 10 years of age to provide that
3 information as appropriate. The agency shall make efforts to
4 identify other individuals who are important to the child.

5 (4) Whether the child has been placed with a prospective
6 adoptive parent or parents.

7 (5) Whether an adoptive placement agreement has been signed
8 and filed.

9 (6) If the child has not been placed with a prospective adoptive
10 parent or parents, the efforts made to identify an appropriate
11 prospective adoptive parent or legal guardian, including, but not
12 limited to, child-specific recruitment efforts and listing on an
13 adoption exchange.

14 (7) Whether the final adoption order should include provisions
15 for postadoptive sibling contact pursuant to Section 366.29.

16 (8) The progress of the search for an adoptive placement if one
17 has not been identified.

18 (9) Any impediments to the adoption or the adoptive placement.

19 (10) The anticipated date by which the child will be adopted or
20 placed in an adoptive home.

21 (11) The anticipated date by which an adoptive placement
22 agreement will be signed.

23 (12) Recommendations for court orders that will assist in the
24 placement of the child for adoption or in the finalization of the
25 adoption.

26 The court shall determine whether or not reasonable efforts to
27 make and finalize a permanent placement for the child have been
28 made.

29 The court shall make appropriate orders to protect the stability
30 of the child and to facilitate and expedite the permanent placement
31 and adoption of the child.

32 (h) At the review held pursuant to subdivision (d) for a child in
33 long-term foster care, the court shall consider all permanency
34 planning options for the child including whether the child should
35 be returned to the home of the parent, placed for adoption, or, for
36 an Indian child, in consultation with the child's tribe, placed for
37 tribal customary adoption, or appointed a legal guardian, or, if
38 compelling reasons exist for finding that none of the foregoing
39 options are in the best interest of the child, whether the child should
40 be placed in another planned permanent living arrangement. The

1 court shall order that a hearing be held pursuant to Section 366.26,
2 unless it determines by clear and convincing evidence that there
3 is a compelling reason for determining that a hearing held pursuant
4 to Section 366.26 is not in the best interest of the child because
5 the child is being returned to the home of the parent, the child is
6 not a proper subject for adoption, or no one is willing to accept
7 legal guardianship. If the county adoption agency, or the
8 department when it is acting as an adoption agency, has determined
9 it is unlikely that the child will be adopted or one of the conditions
10 described in paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 366.26
11 applies, that fact shall constitute a compelling reason for purposes
12 of this subdivision. Only upon that determination may the court
13 order that the child remain in long-term foster care, without holding
14 a hearing pursuant to Section 366.26. On and after January 1, 2012,
15 the nonminor dependent's legal status as an adult is in and of itself
16 a compelling reason not to hold a hearing pursuant to Section
17 366.26.

18 (i) If, as authorized by subdivision (h), the court orders a hearing
19 pursuant to Section 366.26, the court shall direct the agency
20 supervising the child and the county adoption agency, or the State
21 Department of Social Services when it is acting as an adoption
22 agency, to prepare an assessment as provided for in subdivision
23 (i) of Section 366.21 or subdivision (b) of Section 366.22. A
24 hearing held pursuant to Section 366.26 shall be held no later than
25 120 days from the date of the 12-month review at which it is
26 ordered, and at that hearing the court shall determine whether
27 adoption, tribal customary adoption, legal guardianship, or
28 long-term foster care is the most appropriate plan for the child. On
29 and after January 1, 2012, a hearing pursuant to Section 366.26
30 shall not be ordered if the child is a nonminor dependent, unless
31 the nonminor dependent is an Indian child and tribal customary
32 adoption is recommended as the permanent plan. The court may
33 order that a nonminor dependent who otherwise is eligible pursuant
34 to Section 11403 remain in a planned, permanent living
35 arrangement. At the request of the nonminor dependent who has
36 an established relationship with an adult determined to be the
37 nonminor dependent's permanent connection, the court may order
38 adoption of the nonminor dependent pursuant to subdivision (f)
39 of Section 366.31.

1 (j) The implementation and operation of the amendments to
2 subdivision (e) enacted at the 2005–06 Regular Session shall be
3 subject to appropriation through the budget process and by phase,
4 as provided in Section 366.35.

5 (k) The reviews conducted pursuant to subdivision (a) or (d)
6 may be conducted earlier than every six months if the court
7 determines that an earlier review is in the best interests of the child
8 or as court rules prescribe.

9 SEC. 7. Section 388 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is
10 amended to read:

11 388. (a) (1) Any parent or other person having an interest in
12 a child who is a dependent child of the juvenile court or a nonminor
13 dependent as defined in subdivision (v) of Section 11400, or the
14 child himself or herself or the nonminor dependent through a
15 properly appointed guardian may, upon grounds of change of
16 circumstance or new evidence, petition the court in the same action
17 in which the child was found to be a dependent child of the juvenile
18 court or in which a guardianship was ordered pursuant to Section
19 360 for a hearing to change, modify, or set aside any order of court
20 previously made or to terminate the jurisdiction of the court. The
21 petition shall be verified and, if made by a person other than the
22 child or the nonminor dependent shall state the petitioner's
23 relationship to or interest in the child or the nonminor dependent
24 and shall set forth in concise language any change of circumstance
25 or new evidence that is alleged to require the change of order or
26 termination of jurisdiction.

27 (2) When any party, including a child who is a dependent of the
28 juvenile court, petitions the court prior to an order terminating
29 parental rights, to modify the order that reunification services were
30 not needed pursuant to paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) of subdivision
31 (b) of Section 361.5, or to modify any orders related to custody or
32 visitation of the subject child, and the court orders a hearing
33 pursuant to subdivision (d), the court shall modify the order that
34 reunification services were not needed pursuant to paragraphs (4),
35 (5), and (6) of subdivision (b) of Section 361.5, or any orders
36 related to the custody or visitation of the child for whom
37 reunification services were not ordered pursuant to paragraphs (4),
38 (5), and (6) of subdivision (b) of Section 361.5, only if the court
39 finds by clear and convincing evidence that the proposed change
40 is in the best interests of the child.

(b) (1) Any person, including a child or a nonminor dependent who is a dependent of the juvenile court, may petition the court to assert a relationship as a sibling related by blood, adoption, or affinity through a common legal or biological parent to a child who is, or is the subject of a petition for adjudication as, a dependent of the juvenile court, and may request visitation with the dependent child, placement with or near the dependent child, or consideration when determining or implementing a case plan or permanent plan for the dependent child or make any other request for an order which may be shown to be in the best interest of the dependent child.

(2) A child or nonminor dependent who is a dependent of the juvenile court may petition the court to assert a relationship as a sibling related by blood, adoption, or affinity through a common legal or biological parent to a child who is in the physical custody of a common legal or biological parent, and may request visitation with the nondependent sibling in parental custody.

(3) Pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 16002, a request for sibling visitation may be granted unless it is determined by the court that sibling visitation is contrary to the safety and well-being of any of the siblings.

(4) The court may appoint a guardian ad litem to file the petition for a dependent child asserting a sibling relationship pursuant to this subdivision if the court determines that the appointment is necessary for the best interests of the dependent child. The petition shall be verified and shall set forth the following:

(A) Through which parent he or she is related to the sibling.

(B) Whether he or she is related to the sibling by blood, adoption, or affinity.

(C) The request or order that the petitioner is seeking.

(D) Why that request or order is in the best interest of the dependent child.

(c) (1) Any party, including a child who is a dependent of the juvenile court, may petition the court, prior to the hearing set pursuant to subdivision (f) of Section 366.21 for a child described by subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 361.5, or prior to the hearing set pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 366.21 for a child described by subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 361.5, to terminate

1 court-ordered reunification services provided under subdivision
2 (a) of Section 361.5 only if one of the following conditions exists:

3 (A) It appears that a change of circumstance or new evidence
4 exists that satisfies a condition set forth in subdivision (b) or (e)
5 of Section 361.5 justifying termination of court-ordered
6 reunification services.

7 (B) The action or inaction of the parent or guardian creates a
8 substantial likelihood that reunification will not occur, including,
9 but not limited to, the parent's or guardian's failure to visit the
10 child, or the failure of the parent or guardian to participate regularly
11 and make substantive progress in a court-ordered treatment plan.

12 (2) In determining whether the parent or guardian has failed to
13 visit the child or participate regularly or make progress in the
14 treatment plan, the court shall consider factors that include but are
15 not limited to, the parent's or guardian's incarceration,
16 institutionalization, detention by the United States Department of
17 Homeland Security, deportation, or participation in a court-ordered
18 residential substance abuse treatment program.

19 (3) The court shall terminate reunification services during the
20 above-described time periods only upon a finding by a
21 preponderance of evidence that reasonable services have been
22 offered or provided, and upon a finding of clear and convincing
23 evidence that one of the conditions in subparagraph (A) or (B) of
24 paragraph (1) exists.

25 (4) Any party, including a nonminor dependent, as defined in
26 subdivision (v) of Section 11400, may petition the court prior to
27 the review hearing set pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 366.31
28 to terminate the continuation of court-ordered family reunification
29 services for a nonminor dependent who has attained 18 years of
30 age. The court shall terminate family reunification services to the
31 parent or guardian if the nonminor dependent or parent or guardian
32 are not in agreement that the continued provision of court-ordered
33 family reunification services is in the best interests of the nonminor
34 dependent.

35 (5) If the court terminates reunification services, it shall order
36 that a hearing pursuant to Section 366.26 be held within 120 days.
37 On and after January 1, 2012, a hearing pursuant to Section 366.26
38 shall not be ordered if the child is a nonminor dependent. The court
39 may order a nonminor dependent who is otherwise eligible to

1 AFDC-FC benefits pursuant to Section 11403 to remain in a
2 planned, permanent living arrangement.

3 (d) If it appears that the best interests of the child or the
4 nonminor dependent may be promoted by the proposed change of
5 order, modification of reunification services, custody, or visitation
6 orders concerning a child for whom reunification services were
7 not ordered pursuant to paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) of subdivision
8 (b) of Section 361.5, recognition of a sibling relationship,
9 termination of jurisdiction, or clear and convincing evidence
10 supports revocation or termination of court-ordered reunification
11 services, the court shall order that a hearing be held and shall give
12 prior notice, or cause prior notice to be given, to the persons and
13 in the manner prescribed by Section 386, and, in those instances
14 in which the manner of giving notice is not prescribed by those
15 sections, then in the manner the court prescribes.

16 (e) (1) On and after January 1, 2012, a nonminor who attained
17 18 years of age while subject to an order for foster care placement
18 and, commencing January 1, 2012, who has not attained 19 years
19 of age, or, commencing January 1, 2013, 20 years of age, or,
20 commencing January 1, 2014, 21 years of age, or as described in
21 Section 10103.5, for whom the court has dismissed dependency
22 jurisdiction pursuant to Section 391, or delinquency jurisdiction
23 pursuant to Section 607.2, or transition jurisdiction pursuant to
24 Section 452, but has retained general jurisdiction under subdivision
25 (b) of Section 303, or the county child welfare services, probation
26 department, or tribal placing agency on behalf of the nonminor,
27 may petition the court in the same action in which the child was
28 found to be a dependent or delinquent child of the juvenile court,
29 for a hearing to resume the dependency jurisdiction over a former
30 dependent or to assume or resume transition jurisdiction over a
31 former delinquent ward pursuant to Section 450. The petition shall
32 be filed within the period that the nonminor is of the age described
33 in this paragraph. If the nonminor has completed the voluntary
34 reentry agreement, as described in subdivision (z) of Section 11400,
35 with the placing agency, the agency shall file the petition on behalf
36 of the nonminor within 15 judicial days of the date the agreement
37 was signed unless the nonminor elects to file the petition at an
38 earlier date.

39 (2) (A) The petition to resume jurisdiction may be filed in the
40 juvenile court that retains general jurisdiction under subdivision

(b) of Section 303, or the petition may be submitted to the juvenile court in the county where the youth resides and forwarded to the juvenile court that retained general jurisdiction and filed with that court. The juvenile court having general jurisdiction under Section 303 shall receive the petition from the court where the petition was submitted within five court days of its submission, if the petition is filed in the county of residence. The juvenile court that retained general jurisdiction shall order that a hearing be held within 15 judicial days of the date the petition was filed if there is a prima facie showing that the nonminor satisfies the following criteria:

(i) He or she was previously under juvenile court jurisdiction, subject to an order for foster care placement when he or she attained 18 years of age, and has not attained the age limits described in paragraph (1).

(ii) He or she intends to satisfy at least one of the conditions set forth in paragraphs (1) to (5), inclusive, of subdivision (b) of Section 11403.

(iii) He or she wants assistance either in maintaining or securing appropriate supervised placement, or is in need of immediate placement and agrees to supervised placement pursuant to the voluntary reentry agreement as described in subdivision (z) of Section 11400.

(B) Upon ordering a hearing, the court shall give prior notice, or cause prior notice to be given, to the persons and by the means prescribed by Section 386, except that notice to parents or former guardians shall not be provided unless the nonminor requests, in writing on the face of the petition, notice to the parents or former guardians.

(3) The Judicial Council, by January 1, 2012, shall adopt rules of court to allow for telephonic appearances by nonminor former dependents or delinquents in these proceedings, and for telephonic appearances by nonminor dependents in any proceeding in which the nonminor dependent is a party, and he or she declines to appear and elects a telephonic appearance.

(4) Prior to the hearing on a petition to resume dependency jurisdiction or to assume or resume transition jurisdiction, the court shall order the county child welfare or probation department to prepare a report for the court addressing whether the nonminor intends to satisfy at least one of the criteria set forth in subdivision

(b) of Section 11403. When the recommendation is for the nonminor dependent to be placed in a setting where minor dependents also reside, the results of a background check of the petitioning nonminor conducted pursuant to Section 16504.5, may be used by the placing agency to determine appropriate placement options for the nonminor. The existence of a criminal conviction is not a bar to eligibility for reentry or resumption of dependency jurisdiction or the assumption or resumption of transition jurisdiction over a nonminor.

(5) (A) The court shall resume dependency jurisdiction over a former dependent or assume or resume transition jurisdiction over a former delinquent ward pursuant to Section 450, and order that the nonminor's placement and care be under the responsibility of the county child welfare services department, the probation department, tribe, consortium of tribes, or tribal organization, if the court finds all of the following:

(i) The nonminor was previously under juvenile court jurisdiction subject to an order for foster care placement when he or she attained 18 years of age.

(ii) The nonminor has not attained the age limits described in paragraph (1).

(iii) Reentry and remaining in foster care are in the nonminor's best interests.

(iv) The nonminor intends to satisfy, and agrees to satisfy, at least one of the criteria set forth in paragraphs (1) to (5), inclusive, of subdivision (b) of Section 11403, and demonstrates his or her agreement to placement in a supervised setting under the placement and care responsibility of the placing agency and to satisfy the criteria by signing the voluntary reentry agreement as described in subdivision (z) of Section 11400.

(B) In no event shall the court grant a continuance that would cause the hearing to resume dependency jurisdiction or to assume or resume transition jurisdiction to be completed more than 120 days after the date the petition was filed.

(C) The agency made responsible for the nonminor's placement and care pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall prepare a new transitional independent living case plan within 60 calendar days from the date the nonminor signed the voluntary reentry agreement as described in subdivision (z) of Section 11400 and submit it to the court for the review hearing under Section 366.31, to be held

1 within 70 days of the resumption of dependency jurisdiction or
2 assumption or resumption of transition jurisdiction. In no event
3 shall the review hearing under Section 366.3 be held more than
4 170 calendar days from the date the nonminor signed the voluntary
5 reentry agreement.

6 *SEC. 8. Section 706.6 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is*
7 *amended to read:*

8 706.6. A case plan prepared as required by Section 706.5 shall
9 be submitted to the court. It shall either be attached to the social
10 study or incorporated as a separate section within the social study.
11 The case plan shall include, but not be limited to, the following
12 information:

13 (a) A description of the circumstances that resulted in the minor
14 being placed under the supervision of the probation department
15 and in foster care.

16 (b) An assessment of the minor's and family's strengths and
17 needs and the type of placement best equipped to meet those needs.

18 (c) A description of the type of home or institution in which the
19 minor is to be placed, including a discussion of the safety and
20 appropriateness of the placement. An appropriate placement is a
21 placement in the least restrictive, most family-like environment,
22 in closest proximity to the minor's home, that meets the minor's
23 best interests and special needs.

24 (d) Effective January 1, 2010, a case plan shall ensure the
25 educational stability of the child while in foster care and shall
26 include both of the following:

27 (1) Assurances that the placement takes into account the
28 appropriateness of the current educational setting and the proximity
29 to the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement.

30 (2) An assurance that the placement agency has coordinated
31 with appropriate local educational agencies to ensure that the child
32 remains in the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of
33 placement, or, if remaining in that school is not in the best interests
34 of the child, assurances by the placement agency and the local
35 educational agency to provide immediate and appropriate
36 enrollment in a new school and to provide all of the child's
37 educational records to the new school.

38 (e) Specific time-limited goals and related activities designed
39 to enable the safe return of the minor to his or her home, or in the
40 event that return to his or her home is not possible, activities

1 designed to result in permanent placement or emancipation.
2 Specific responsibility for carrying out the planned activities shall
3 be assigned to one or more of the following:

- 4 (1) The probation department.
- 5 (2) The minor's parent or parents or legal guardian or guardians,
6 as applicable.
- 7 (3) The minor.
- 8 (4) The foster parents or licensed agency providing foster care.

9 (f) The projected date of completion of the case plan objectives
10 and the date services will be terminated.

11 (g) (1) Scheduled visits between the minor and his or her family
12 and an explanation if no visits are made.

13 (2) *Whether the child has other siblings, and, if any siblings*
14 *exist, all of the following:*

15 (A) *The nature of the relationship between the child and his or*
16 *her siblings.*

17 (B) *The appropriateness of developing or maintaining the sibling*
18 *relationships pursuant to Section 16002.*

19 (C) *If the siblings are not placed together in the same home,*
20 *why the siblings are not placed together and what efforts are being*
21 *made to place the siblings together, or why those efforts are not*
22 *appropriate.*

23 (D) *If the siblings are not placed together, all of the following:*

24 (i) *The frequency and nature of the visits between the siblings.*

25 (ii) *If there are visits between the siblings, whether the visits*
26 *are supervised or unsupervised. If the visits are supervised, a*
27 *discussion of the reasons why the visits are supervised, and what*
28 *needs to be accomplished in order for the visits to be unsupervised.*

29 (iii) *If there are visits between the siblings, a description of the*
30 *location and length of the visits.*

31 (iv) *Any plan to increase visitation between the siblings.*

32 (E) *The impact of the sibling relationships on the child's*
33 *placement and planning for legal permanence.*

34 (F) *The continuing need to suspend sibling interaction, if*
35 *applicable, pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 16002.*

36 (3) *The factors the court may consider in making a*
37 *determination regarding the nature of the child's sibling*
38 *relationships may include, but are not limited to, whether the*
39 *siblings were raised together in the same home, whether the*
40 *siblings have shared significant common experiences or have*

1 *existing close and strong bonds, whether either sibling expresses*
2 *a desire to visit or live with his or her sibling, as applicable, and*
3 *whether ongoing contact is in the child's best emotional interests.*

4 (h) (1) When placement is made in a foster family home, group
5 home, or other child care institution that is either a substantial
6 distance from the home of the minor's parent or legal guardian or
7 out-of-state, the case plan shall specify the reasons why the
8 placement is the most appropriate and is in the best interest of the
9 minor.

10 (2) When an out-of-state group home placement is recommended
11 or made, the case plan shall comply with Section 727.1 and Section
12 7911.1 of the Family Code. In addition, documentation of the
13 recommendation of the multidisciplinary team and the rationale
14 for this particular placement shall be included. The case plan shall
15 also address what in-state services or facilities were used or
16 considered and why they were not recommended.

17 (i) If applicable, efforts to make it possible to place siblings
18 together, unless it has been determined that placement together is
19 not in the best interest of one or more siblings.

20 (j) A schedule of visits between the minor and the probation
21 officer, including a monthly visitation schedule for those children
22 placed in group homes.

23 (k) Health and education information about the minor, school
24 records, immunizations, known medical problems, and any known
25 medications the minor may be taking, names and addresses of the
26 minor's health and educational providers; the minor's grade level
27 performance; assurances that the minor's placement in foster care
28 takes into account proximity to the school in which the minor was
29 enrolled at the time of placement; and other relevant health and
30 educational information.

31 (l) When out-of-home services are used and the goal is
32 reunification, the case plan shall describe the services that were
33 provided to prevent removal of the minor from the home, those
34 services to be provided to assist in reunification and the services
35 to be provided concurrently to achieve legal permanency if efforts
36 to reunify fail.

37 (m) The updated case plan prepared for a permanency planning
38 hearing shall include a recommendation for a permanent plan for
39 the minor. If, after considering reunification, adoptive placement,
40 legal guardianship, or permanent placement with a fit and willing

1 relative the probation officer recommends placement in a planned
2 permanent living arrangement, the case plan shall include
3 documentation of a compelling reason or reasons why termination
4 of parental rights is not in the minor's best interest. For purposes
5 of this subdivision, a "compelling reason" shall have the same
6 meaning as in subdivision (c) of Section 727.3.

7 (n) Each updated case plan shall include a description of the
8 services that have been provided to the minor under the plan and
9 an evaluation of the appropriateness and effectiveness of those
10 services.

11 (o) A statement that the parent or legal guardian, and the minor
12 have had an opportunity to participate in the development of the
13 case plan, to review the case plan, to sign the case plan, and to
14 receive a copy of the plan, or an explanation about why the parent,
15 legal guardian, or minor was not able to participate or sign the case
16 plan.

17 (p) For a minor in out-of-home care who is 16 years of age or
18 older, a written description of the programs and services, which
19 will help the minor prepare for the transition from foster care to
20 independent living.

21 *SEC. 9. Section 778 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is*
22 *amended to read:*

23 778. (a) (1) Any parent or other person having an interest in
24 a child who is a ward of the juvenile court or the child himself *or*
25 *herself* through a properly appointed guardian may, upon grounds
26 of change of circumstance or new evidence, petition the court in
27 the same action in which the child was found to be a ward of the
28 juvenile court for a hearing to change, modify, or set aside any
29 order of court previously made or to terminate the jurisdiction of
30 the court. The petition shall be verified and, if made by a person
31 other than the child, shall state the petitioner's relationship to or
32 interest in the child and shall set forth in concise language any
33 change of circumstance or new evidence which are alleged to
34 require such change of order or termination of jurisdiction.

35 ~~—H~~

36 (2) *If* it appears that the best interests of the child may be
37 promoted by the proposed change of order or termination of
38 jurisdiction, the court shall order that a hearing be held and shall
39 give prior notice, or cause prior notice to be given, to such persons
40 and by such means as prescribed by Sections 776 and 779, and, in

1 such instances as the means of giving notice is not prescribed by
2 such sections, then by such means as the court prescribes.

3 *(b) (1) Any person, including a ward, a transition dependent,*
4 *or a nonminor dependent of the juvenile court, may petition the*
5 *court to assert a relationship as a sibling related by blood,*
6 *adoption, or affinity through a common legal or biological parent*
7 *to a child who is, or is the subject of a petition for adjudication*
8 *as, a ward of the juvenile court, and may request visitation with*
9 *the ward, placement with or near the ward, or consideration when*
10 *determining or implementing a case plan or permanent plan for*
11 *the ward.*

12 *(2) A ward, transition dependent, or nonminor dependent of the*
13 *juvenile court may petition the court to assert a relationship as a*
14 *sibling related by blood, adoption, or affinity through a common*
15 *legal or biological parent to a child who is in the physical custody*
16 *of a common legal or biological parent, and may request visitation*
17 *with the nondependent sibling in parental custody.*

18 *(3) Pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 16002, a request for*
19 *sibling visitation may be granted unless it is determined by the*
20 *court that sibling visitation is contrary to the safety and well-being*
21 *of any of the siblings.*

22 *(4) The court may appoint a guardian ad litem to file the petition*
23 *for a ward asserting a sibling relationship pursuant to this*
24 *subdivision if the court determines that the appointment is*
25 *necessary for the best interests of the ward. The petition shall be*
26 *verified and shall set forth the following:*

27 *(A) Through which parent he or she is related to the sibling.*

28 *(B) Whether he or she is related to the sibling by blood,*
29 *adoption, or affinity.*

30 *(C) The request or order that the petitioner is seeking.*

31 *(D) Why that request or order is in the best interest of the ward.*

32 ~~SEC. 8.~~

33 *SEC. 10.* Section 16002 of the Welfare and Institutions Code
34 is amended to read:

35 16002. (a) (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to maintain
36 the continuity of the family unit, and ensure the preservation and
37 strengthening of the child's family ties by ensuring that when
38 siblings have been removed from their home, either as a group on
39 one occurrence or individually on separate occurrences, the siblings
40 will be placed in foster care together, unless it has been determined

1 that placement together is contrary to the safety or well-being of
2 any sibling. The Legislature recognizes that in order to ensure the
3 placement of a sibling group in the same foster care placement,
4 placement resources need to be expanded.

5 (2) It is also the intent of the Legislature to preserve and
6 strengthen a child's sibling relationship so that when a child has
7 been removed from his or her home and he or she has a sibling or
8 siblings who remain in the custody of a mutual parent subject to
9 the court's jurisdiction, the court has the authority to develop a
10 visitation plan for the siblings, unless it has been determined that
11 visitation is contrary to the safety or well-being of any sibling.

12 (b) The responsible local agency shall make a diligent effort in
13 all out-of-home placements of dependent-~~children~~, *children and*
14 *wards in foster care*, including those with relatives, to place
15 siblings together in the same placement, and to develop and
16 maintain sibling relationships. If siblings are not placed together
17 in the same home, the social worker shall explain why the siblings
18 are not placed together and what efforts he or she is making to
19 place the siblings together or why making those efforts would be
20 contrary to the safety and well-being of any of the siblings. When
21 placement of siblings together in the same home is not possible,
22 a diligent effort shall be made, and a case plan prepared, to provide
23 for ongoing and frequent interaction among siblings until family
24 reunification is achieved, or, if parental rights are terminated, as
25 part of developing the permanent plan for the child. If the court
26 determines by clear and convincing evidence that sibling interaction
27 is contrary to the safety and well-being of any of the siblings, the
28 reasons for the determination shall be noted in the court order, and
29 interaction shall be suspended.

30 (c) When there has been a judicial suspension of sibling
31 interaction, the reasons for the suspension shall be reviewed at
32 each periodic review hearing pursuant to Section ~~366~~. *366 or 727.3*.
33 In order for the suspension to continue, the court shall make a
34 renewed finding that sibling interaction is contrary to the safety
35 or well-being of either child. When the court determines that sibling
36 interaction can be safely resumed, that determination shall be noted
37 in the court order and the case plan shall be revised to provide for
38 sibling interaction.

39 (d) If the case plan for the child has provisions for sibling
40 interaction, the child, or his or her parent or legal guardian, shall

1 have the right to comment on those provisions. If a person wishes
2 to assert a sibling relationship with a dependent-~~child~~, *child or*
3 *ward*, he or she may file a petition in the juvenile court having
4 jurisdiction over the dependent child pursuant to subdivision (b)
5 of Section ~~388~~. *388 or the ward in foster care pursuant to Section*
6 *778*.

7 (e) If parental rights are terminated and the court orders a
8 dependent child *or ward* to be placed for adoption, the county
9 adoption agency or the State Department of Social Services shall
10 take all of the following steps to facilitate ongoing sibling contact,
11 except in those cases provided in subdivision (b) where the court
12 determines by clear and convincing evidence that sibling interaction
13 is contrary to the safety or well-being of the child:

14 (1) Include in training provided to prospective adoptive parents
15 information about the importance of sibling relationships to the
16 adopted child and counseling on methods for maintaining sibling
17 relationships.

18 (2) Provide prospective adoptive parents with information about
19 siblings of the child, except the address where the siblings of the
20 children reside. However, this address may be disclosed by court
21 order for good cause shown.

22 (3) Encourage prospective adoptive parents to make a plan for
23 facilitating postadoptive contact between the child who is the
24 subject of a petition for adoption and any siblings of this child.

25 (f) Information regarding sibling interaction, contact, or
26 visitation that has been authorized or ordered by the court shall be
27 provided to the foster parent, relative caretaker, or legal guardian
28 of the child as soon as possible after the court order is made, in
29 order to facilitate the interaction, contact, or visitation.

30 (g) As used in this section, “sibling” means a child related to
31 another person by blood, adoption, or affinity through a common
32 legal or biological parent.

33 (h) The court documentation on sibling placements required
34 under this section shall not require the modification of existing
35 court order forms until the Child Welfare Services Case
36 Management System is implemented on a statewide basis.

37 ~~SEC. 9.~~

38 *SEC. 11.* If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
39 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
40 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made

- 1 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
- 2 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

O